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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY (CP)  
G-2 STRATEGIC SERVICES SECTION  
APO 758

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:Auth: CG 7 Army:  
:Initials: C:  
:Date: 24 Jan 45:  
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REF NO : 36

OPERATION "JOSHUA"

24 January 1945

SUBJECT: Military Information, NEUNKIRCHEN Area.

TO : See Distribution.

The following information was submitted to the undersigned by an experienced SSS agent who, on special assignment from G-2 Seventh Army, crossed the lines at 0730 hrs 19 Jan 45 in the MORSBACH (Q-3768) region and returned to the starting point at 1700 hrs 22 Jan 45. Itinerary covered: MORSBACH--GRAND ROSELLE (Q-3568)--FORBACH (Q-3966)--SAARBRUCKEN (Q-4571)--NEUNKIRCHEN (Q-6083)--OTTWEILER (Q-5990). He then returned retracing his route through NEUNKIRCHEN--HOMBURG--ST INBERT--SAARBRUCKEN--FORBACH back to SAARBRUCKEN and back to MORSBACH. See text for date of observation. Evaluation, B-2, save for estimated numbers given for troops.

I- FORBACH to GRANDE ROSELLE:

1. Between FORBACH and GRANDE ROSELLE trees are cut and lie across the road as blocks. There are concrete emplacements at 50 yd intervals which will serve as protection for one soldier with MG. On 19 and 22 Jan these emplacements were unoccupied.

II- FORBACH -- SAARBRUCKEN ROAD:

2. Agent observed on 22 Jan, on main road at Q-431674, just before the grade of SPICHERE HOHEN is a cluster of houses. There are four or five military staff cars and a constant guard in front of these houses.

3. On 19 Jan a total of 60 soldiers in all seen on the road. They were not in any formation, but were small groups walking about. Noncoms and officers carried pistols; EM carried only bayonets and no rifles. The same situation existed on 22 Jan.

III- SAARBRUCKEN:

4. On 19 Jan approximately 60 soldiers in town, but large number of Volkssturm, Technische, and Nothilfe, all occupied in cleaning up debris from bombing of the town. Volkssturm were fully uniformed in field gray with a blue band on the left lower sleeve with the printing, VOLKSSTURM in red letters. Single and double guards are on all bridges with a soldier paired off with a Volkssturm in each instance. Situation unchanged upon return on 22 Jan.

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Ltr, Hq 7th Army G-2 SSS, dtd 24 Jan 45, subj: "Military Information, NEUNKIRCHEN Area," (cont'd)

IV- ST INBERT (Q-5576):

5. On 19 Jan, 6 SP guns (88cm PAK "HORNET") seen heading in the direction of SAARBRUCKEN. In the center of town there is an ordnance repair shop with 5 workshops. 2 MK IV's were seen in a repair shop and 12 SP guns in the yard in various stages of repair.

6. On 19 Jan, numerous soldiers in town (number not estimated.) One lieutenant was observed with a number 15 on his shoulder straps, and a death's head on his peaked cap.

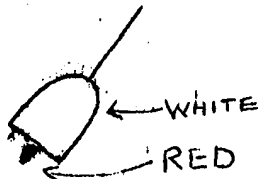
V- KIRKEL (Q-6376):

7. At Q-6578, 500 yards from KIRKEL on the main road toward HOMBURG (Q-7180,) and east of the road in the forest, there is a cave which appears to be an ammo cache. The store is surrounded by barbed wire fencing and is guarded by soldiers. There does not seem to be AA protection. Five trucks were being loaded at time of observation (20 Jan,) and about the same number on 22 Jan.

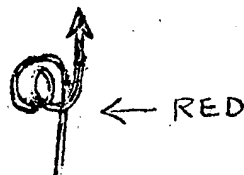
VI- HOMBURG:

8. The town was filled with an estimated 800 to 1500 troops on 20 Jan. Agent says the sidewalks were so crowded, it was necessary to walk in the streets to pass. All soldiers were in clean uniforms and were equipped with rifle, haversack, and steel helmet. Branches of service represented were TD, Inf, Panzer, and Marines. No Volkssturm were in the town. The majority of troops spoke with a Bavarian accent. The troops were commandeering transportation in the direction of ZWEIBRUCKEN (Q-7272.) Agent saw 15 trucks waiting to carry SS soldiers to BITCHE. Less activity was observed on 22 Jan.

9. Two officers were observed wearing a bell insignia on the lower left sleeve:



10. On 20 Jan, a staff car was observed with the following insignia on the side. Car was halted before a house with a permanent guard.



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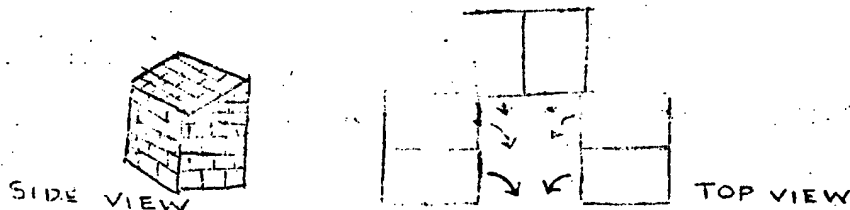
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VII- HOMBURG -- NEUNKIRCHEN:

11. On 20 Jan, at Q-700815, after a RR underpass, and 100 meters past a destroyed barracks, between 15 to 20 half-track personnel carriers were observed. These vehicles are in the woods under shelters. They were still there on 21 Jan.

12. At Q-6982, an AT barricade constructed of rails was observed on the side of the road where it was held for future use.

13. At WELLE WEILER (Q-6383) red brick sheds have been constructed 50 meters from the last house in the town at 20 meter intervals along the edge of the road at Q-6384 where the road curves. The tank sheds are constructed in blocks capable of holding 5 or 6 tanks to a block. There are 4 such blocks spaced as indicated. 2 MK IV tanks were observed leaving the sheds on 20 Jan.



VIII- NEUNKIRCHEN:

14. On 20 Jan approximately 300 Panzer troops (various ranks) observed in the town. Troops were dressed in camouflaged tankers uniform. They were not equipped for travel. Troops were young and in good shape. The same number was observed on 21 Jan.

15. A sign was noted in town pointing toward OTTWEILLER reading, "SS WALTHER".

IX- OTTWEILER:

16. Approximately 500 Panzer troops in town on 21 Jan. They were also young and fresh troops dressed in camouflaged tankers uniform. It was not possible to see insignia markings as all soldiers wore their outer cape buttoned tight around the neck.

17. On obergefreiter complained to the agent that his unit was bored with hanging around and doing nothing. He stated that his unit had 80 tanks (10 Tigers, 40 Panthers, and 30 MK IV's.) F-O.

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18. The woods in the region of OTTWEILER at Q-5888 and Q-5589 have signs posted reading "DAS BETRETEN BEDEUTET DEN TOD, OHNE ANRUHF WIRD GESCHOSSEN" (ENTRANCE MEANS DEATH, YOU WILL BE SHOT WITHOUT WARNING.) Guards in Panzer uniform are posted around these woods. Agent did not investigate further.

X- ST INBERT -- SAARBRUCKEN:

19. At about Q-525740, there is a factory on the east side of the road which appears to be working at full capacity. Part of the factory has been damaged by bombing, but this has not hindered the operation of the main part. Smoke is coming from its 4 or 5 smoke stacks, and many military trucks were observed before the factory on 19 and 22 Jan.

XI- GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON AREA COVERED:

20. There is no train traffic throughout this region. All train transport has been stopped by bombing. As a result, an order has been issued compelling all vehicles to pick up and give transport to all civilians travelling between the towns.

2. All of the bridges in the region have been prepared for mining.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Jeffrey J. Carre*  
JEFFREY J. CARRE  
2d Lt, AUS  
Asst Int Off

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